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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT TOPIC Military Information from Gera

618436

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 26 March 1954REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 10 and 20 February 1954, the Reuss Kaserne (8141), Gera, was occupied to capacity as previously by an AT unit of an estimated 1,800 men. Formation drill with rifles and submachine guns, as well as instruction on 100-mm AT guns, was almost daily observed in the barracks yard. Vehicular traffic was rather heavy.

2. The Panzer Kaserne (8142) in Tinz was occupied by an estimated 200 troops. On 19 February, aiming and driving was practiced with 2 tanks near the installation.

3. On 28 February, about 400 troops from the Reuss Kaserne, along with 9 x 85-mm to 100-mm AT guns, 3 x 37-mm to 45-mm AT guns, 39 trucks, 4 field kitchens and 2 prime movers, were entrained at the Gera freight station. At 3:45 p.m., the train was detracked, with the engine headed toward Erfurt. At 4 p.m., a second shipment of 400 troops from the Reuss Kaserne with 6 x 37-mm to 45-mm AT guns, 6 x 152-mm howitzers, 40 motor vehicles 4 field kit-
chens and 24 prime movers was entrained.

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4. At about 6:30 a.m. on 26 February, 35 trucks occupied by a total of about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia and armed with carbines and submachine guns left the Reuss Kaserne, Gera, toward Untermaus.

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[redacted] At about 7 a.m., the column was followed by prime movers [redacted] occupied by a total of about 350 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia. The prime movers proceeded toward Dorna. The motor vehicle column re-turned at about 3 p.m. and prime movers [redacted] towing 100-mm AT guns entered the installation at about 4 p.m. Between 23 and 26 February, the installation was occupied by an estimated 3,600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia. [redacted]

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5. Between 23 and 26 February, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz was occupied by an estimated 900 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. About 850 troops were lined up in the barracks yard on Red Army Day. On 25 February, about 150 troops engaged in formation drill and physical training. Several tank crews with 2 T-34/85 tanks and each 1 JS-1, JS-2 and JS-3 tank practiced in the training area adjoining the installation.²

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6. [redacted] Only individual soldiers were observed in the sheds and the yard. [redacted] a major column had left the installation. An exercise was held in Dornaeer Grund. [redacted] strict security measures. [redacted] vehicles were seen en route to and from Reuss Kaserne:

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1. Comment. The 308th Arty Briz [redacted] is confirmed in the Reuss Kaserne until late February [redacted]

[redacted] While, according to information in paragraphs 4 and 5, an exercise was held in the vicinity of the post on 26 February and 2 March, information in paragraph 3 indicates that elements of the brigade presumably left for exercises on 28 February and, according to paragraph 5, were still absent on 2 March.

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2. Comment. The unidentified tank training unit of the Eighth Gds Army is confirmed in the barracks installation in Tinz.

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